

**Rivera Lauds Visit of Assistant U.S. Secretary of Labor Jonathan Snare**  
*Assistant Secretary Snare; 65 national safety officials in Indianapolis for summer meeting*

INDIANAPOLIS—Indiana Commissioner of Labor Miguel R. Rivera, Sr. welcomed Acting Assistant U.S. Secretary of Labor Jonathan Snare and safety and health officials from the U.S. Department of Labor and 21 states to Indiana for the mid-year conference of the Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association (OSHSPA).

“We are honored to host OSHSPA in Indiana,” said Rivera as he opened today’s general meeting at the Indiana Government Center. Rivera commented, “We are especially pleased to welcome fellow Hoosier and Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor Jonathan Snare back to Indianapolis.”

Snare, a North Central High School graduate, was appointed to the post on January 1, 2005. He heads the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The OSHSPA conference brings state safety representatives together with officials from the U.S. Department of Labor. According to the Indiana Department of Labor, 65 federal and state OSHA officials are attending the conference which is being held jointly at the state government center and the downtown Hyatt. Indiana has not hosted this event in nearly 15 years.

“OSHSPA is an chance for states to have their voice heard, to share ideas with other states and to showcase best practices,” said Doug Kalinowski, head of Michigan’s OSHA program and Chairman of OSHSPA. Kalinowski continued, “We look forward to these meetings to address the critical issues facing our states as well as those facing congress.”

It is not common for a state to host a conference so soon after an administration change. This conference was scheduled prior to the Daniels administration taking office. “We are proud to have put this conference together in a relatively short time,” Rivera said. “The Indiana Department of Labor is developing a solid partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, one that will allow us to maximize the use of our financial resources. We want this conference to be a good first step in that partnership.”

OSHSPA is an organization of 26 states and territories that operate OSHA-approved state plans, which includes Indiana. OSHSPA serves as the link between the state plans and federal agencies which have occupational safety and health jurisdiction and to Congress. The group holds three meetings a year with Federal OSHA, giving state programs the opportunity to address common problems and share information. It also provides information to states or territories that are considering application for state plan status. OSHSPA representatives have appeared before congressional committees and other bodies to report on job safety and health issues.

The program will wrap up in the late afternoon on Wednesday.